

Message Text

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54

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S/S - APSHANKLE

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O 012327Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217184

JOINT STATE USIA MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT: USA-200 YEARS

REF: MOSCOW 13794

1. CONCUR WITH APPROACH SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. RUSSIAN RENDERING OF ENGLISH TEXT IS INDEED INACCURATE AND DOES NOT CONVEY MEANING AUTHOR INTENDED.

2. USIA IS INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF REPRINTING THIS SECTION OF BROCHURE TO CORRECT THIS MISTAKE. IF THIS PROVES IMPRACTICAL, BROCHURE WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED. IF WE PROCEED WITH REPRINT, WE WILL CABLE EMBASSY REVISED RUSSIAN TEXT IN ADVANCE FOR EMBASSY VIEWS.

3. EMBASSY MAY INFORM MFA AND CHAMBER THAT WHILE WE REJECT ANY SOVIET RIGHT OF CENSORSHIP IN SUCH CASES, WE HAVE
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REVIEWED PASSAGE IN QUESTION AND DETERMINED THAT IT WAS

MISTRANSLATED. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO CORRECT BROCHURE THIS WILL BE DONE. IF NOT, BROCHURE WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED.

4. AI 237 QUESTION IS MORE COMPLEX. FYI ONLY RECENT PRECEDENT WE CAN RECALL OF SOVIET OBJECTION TO AI WAS IN 1969 WHEN SOVIETS REFUSED TO DISTRIBUTE ISSUE BECAUSE FLAG

OF ROC TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEMBER NATIONS OF UN APPEARED ON COVER. IN THAT CASE, WE WITHDREW MAGAZINE AND REPRINTED COVER. SUBSEQUENTLY IN 1974 AFTER NORMAL SOYUZPECHAT DISTRIBUTION OF AI 181, WHICH HAD REFERENCE TO SOVIET JEWS SETTLING IN USA, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REFUSED TO ALLOW DISTRIBUTION AT EXHIBIT, CITING PASSAGE ON JEWS. PAUL SMITH WAS INVOLVED IN TALKS WITH CHAMBER AND COULD PROVIDE MORE INFO. END FYI.

5. GIVEN PRECEDENT OF AI 181 AND FACT THAT SHIPMENT IN TRAIN WE DO NOT SEE NECESSITY FOR INITIATIVE TO ADVISE SOVIETS OF AI-237 CONTENTS AT THIS TIME.

6. IF SOVIETS RAISE AI-237 EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT IT IS NOT TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE TO MAKE CHANGE IN THIS CASE. WE DO NOT CENSOR SOVIET LIFE, ALTHOUGH SOME ISSUES UNDOUBTEDLY CONTAIN PASSAGES OFFENSIVE TO GROUPS OF AMERICANS. WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT SOVIETS ACCEPT AI DISTRIBUTION. ROBINSON

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